

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Final Application for the State Revolving Fund
Drinking Water: Form 3**

Environmental Review

- I. Rockhouse Mountain
P.O. Box 562
Center Conway NH 03813**

Project Title: Water system improvements including new well source and transmission lines

EPA # 0512240

II. Introduction

The Rockhouse Mountain water system has applied for funds through the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water State revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) in accordance with Chapter Env-DW 1100. This document addresses the requirements of Enw-Dw 1107 Environmental Review.

III. Background

The rockhouse Mountain water system is located in the town of Conway and is owned by the Rockhouse Mountain Property Owners Association. There are currently 100 houses actively using the Rockhouse Mountain system. Of these 55 are full time homes with 45 vacation homes. Average usage varies both by season and by day of the week. Heaviest demand occurs from May through September, and on weekends. There are substantial up-ticks in usage at Christmas, New Years, Martin Luther King Weekend, February school vacation and Columbus Day. Average week day usage varies for 10,000 to 14,000 gallons per day. Weekend and holiday usage can increase the demand by as much as 6,000 to 10,000 gallons. There is a potential for 60 additional homes at build-out. The current system consists of two bed rock wells and 30,000 gallons of storage capacity. A recent Interim emergency well has been drilled but has not yet received final approval.

IV. Purpose and Need

The current system pumps its water from two bedrock wells that have experienced degradation in proven pumping capacity. An

interim emergency bedrock well has yet to establish a sustainable pumping capacity. There is a potential of 60 additional hookups on the system. The demographics of the houses served is moving in the direction of more permanent and less vacation homes. The system is currently subject to a ban on new connections. The system is operating under a Letter of Deficiency. The need exists to establish the reliable pumping capacity of the existing wells as well as the development of additional water sources and the means to get them into the system.

V. Details of Project

The project is designed to work in several stages. First to perform a hydrological evaluation of the existing wells and determine a sustainable yield capacity. Second to evaluate several potential sites for well development and to acquire through purchase or easement. Third to drill and test a well or well(s) based on established need. Fourth to design and construct a method to move the water obtained into our existing system.

The estimated cost of the overall project is \$257,000. The Rockhouse Mountain water system has applied to borrow up to \$230,000.00 to finance the project.

VI. Environmental Concerns and Mitigation

The following areas of environmental concern summarize the possible impacts from this project. The primary impacts are short term and will affect the area only during the period of construction.

Air: impacts will be limited to dust and diesel or other fuel exhaust created during the construction of the project. There are no anticipated long term impacts.

Noise: from heavy construction machinery are the only noise impacts anticipated.

Surface water, ground water and wetlands: No significant wetlands, surface or groundwater impacts are anticipated. Erosion will be minimized by using erosion control methods such as hay bales, silt fences and rapid re-seeding of affected areas. Groundwater discharge permits, NHDES construction general or dewatering permits and wetlands permits may be required. Best management practices will be employed in this effort. All appropriate permits shall be obtained from local, state and federal agencies as necessary.

Wildlife: No impacts to wildlife are anticipated from this project.

Social and Economic: The social and economic impacts from the project are favorable. Water customers will benefit from improved reliability of source capacity. Lot owners will benefit from the lifting of the new connections ban. The financial impact will be reduced through the use of low interest rates through the Drinking Water State Revolving fund.

Recreation and Historic: No impacts to recreational of historic sites are anticipated

Indirect impacts: There are no indirect impacts anticipated from this project.

Whereas this project constitutes only a minor project and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated, a finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is proposed.

VII. Public Review

The Board of Directors of the Rockhouse Mountain System have Voted to authorize funding in the amount of \$257,000 for this project on.

A public notice will be published by the Rockhouse Mountain System and a 30-day comment period will be held in accordance with DWSRF rules.